

ATI Critical Thinking Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 16

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is the assertion about changing the food stamps system?**
 - A. It would reduce fraud**
 - B. It is impossible to prevent new fraudulent schemes**
 - C. It would make food stamps obsolete**
 - D. It would be cost-effective**

- 2. Which of the following represents an invalid argument?**
 - A. All southbound freeway travelers were late to work.**
 - B. Adrian must live in one of the two Springfields.**
 - C. Lori claimed she has only 44 cans of soda.**
 - D. My friend loves math because they work in accounting.**

- 3. What can be inferred about James' financial situation based on his fines?**
 - A. He has spent a lot on public smoking fines**
 - B. He has saved money by paying the fines**
 - C. He cannot afford the fines**
 - D. He has received compensation for his activism**

- 4. What is the goal of analysis in critical thinking?**
 - A. To memorize the content**
 - B. To examine ideas and analyze arguments**
 - C. To passively accept information**
 - D. To summarize key points**

- 5. What was the reaction of the counter-protesters regarding the state's income tax during the sales tax protest?**
 - A. a. True**
 - B. b. Probably true**
 - C. c. Insufficient data**
 - D. d. Probably false**

- 6. If young adults prioritize education and occupation in dating discussions, what is likely true about their dating preferences?**
- A. a. They are superficial**
 - B. b. They seek deeper connections**
 - C. c. They value financial security**
 - D. d. They are indifferent to backgrounds**
- 7. What is a potential drawback of downsizing workforces to decrease expenses?**
- A. Vulnerability to economic climates and market changes**
 - B. Increased employee morale**
 - C. Enhanced workplace productivity**
 - D. Stronger organizational control**
- 8. What is the root cause of Jenny's financial problems?**
- A. Her credit card declined at the mall.**
 - B. Overdraft fees from her bank are problematic.**
 - C. Her check bounced when trying to buy a TV.**
 - D. Jenny spends more than her earnings.**
- 9. What factor is cited as a potential negative consequence of over-regulation in the financial sector?**
- A. Increased competition**
 - B. Lower profits**
 - C. Greater innovation**
 - D. Enhanced customer service**
- 10. Which of the following best describes the argument about the President's promise in 2008?**
- A. The promise was unrealistic**
 - B. It was supported by previous economic indicators**
 - C. The outcome validated the promise**
 - D. It failed to account for rising unemployment**

Answers

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1. B
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. D
9. B
10. D

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Explanations

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1. What is the assertion about changing the food stamps system?

A. It would reduce fraud

B. It is impossible to prevent new fraudulent schemes

C. It would make food stamps obsolete

D. It would be cost-effective

The assertion that it is impossible to prevent new fraudulent schemes acknowledges the ongoing challenge in any assistance program, including food stamps. This perspective recognizes the adaptability of fraudulent activities; as new measures are implemented to prevent fraud, perpetrators continuously develop new methods to circumvent these safeguards. This cyclical nature of combating fraud implies that while efforts can be made to minimize the occurrence of fraud, completely eliminating it is highly unlikely. Understanding that fraud prevention is an evolving landscape highlights the complexities inherent in managing a social assistance program like food stamps. It emphasizes the importance of vigilance, ongoing assessments, and adaptive strategies rather than believing that a solution is definitive or that the system can be made entirely foolproof.

2. Which of the following represents an invalid argument?

A. All southbound freeway travelers were late to work.

B. Adrian must live in one of the two Springfields.

C. Lori claimed she has only 44 cans of soda.

D. My friend loves math because they work in accounting.

An invalid argument occurs when the conclusion does not logically follow from the premises provided. In the case of the selected answer, the reasoning presented is flawed because loving math is not necessarily a guaranteed result of working in accounting. While it is possible for someone to enjoy math due to their profession in accounting, there are many individuals who work in accounting but may not particularly love math. This disconnect makes the argument invalid because it does not provide sufficient evidence to conclude that a person must love math solely based on their profession. In contrast, the other statements represent either factual assertions or directly observed claims. For instance, stating that all southbound freeway travelers were late to work is a specific observation that could be substantiated. Likewise, claiming that Adrian resides in one of the two Springfields is a logical deduction based on given information, and Lori's statement about having 44 cans of soda is a declarative statement that can be verified or refuted. Thus, these options provide clarity and do not portray invalid reasoning in the same way that the selected argument does.

3. What can be inferred about James' financial situation based on his fines?

- A. He has spent a lot on public smoking fines**
- B. He has saved money by paying the fines**
- C. He cannot afford the fines**
- D. He has received compensation for his activism**

The inference that James has spent a lot on public smoking fines suggests that he has incurred multiple penalties for this offense, indicating a pattern of behavior that results in financial repercussions. The phrase "spent a lot" implies that he has paid significant amounts of money towards these fines, highlighting an ongoing issue with compliance related to public smoking regulations. This pattern could reflect a lack of willingness or ability to adhere to laws that are designed to protect public health, which ultimately has financial consequences. While considering the remaining choices, they do not align with the implications of his financial situation based on fines. For example, the idea that he has saved money by paying the fines contradicts the very nature of fines, which are costs rather than savings. Suggesting that he cannot afford the fines would imply that he is experiencing financial struggle to the point of not being able to pay, which is not supported by the information implying he has already been fined. Finally, the notion that he has received compensation for his activism does not relate directly to the context of financial fines at all; rather, activism could lead to different financial scenarios but does not provide a basis for inferring his financial situation through fines alone. Therefore, the inference that James has spent a lot on public smoking fines provides the

4. What is the goal of analysis in critical thinking?

- A. To memorize the content**
- B. To examine ideas and analyze arguments**
- C. To passively accept information**
- D. To summarize key points**

The goal of analysis in critical thinking is to examine ideas and analyze arguments. This involves breaking down complex information into its component parts to understand it better, assess the validity of arguments, and evaluate the strength of evidence. Through this process, critical thinkers can discern relationships between concepts, identify assumptions, and consider alternative viewpoints, which aids in making informed decisions and drawing reasonable conclusions. The focus on analyzing ideas ensures that individuals are not merely passively receiving information or memorizing facts, but are actively engaging with content in a thoughtful and critical manner. This deeper level of engagement promotes a greater understanding of the material and enhances one's ability to think critically about the issues at hand.

5. What was the reaction of the counter-protesters regarding the state's income tax during the sales tax protest?

A. a. True

B. b. Probably true

C. c. Insufficient data

D. d. Probably false

The reaction of the counter-protesters regarding the state's income tax during the sales tax protest is indicated as "probably true." This choice suggests that while there may not be definitive evidence or statements made, there is a reasonable assumption based on the context that the counter-protesters likely expressed concerns or opposition related to the state's income tax in conjunction with the sales tax protest. In many cases, counter-protesters at events like tax protests have motivations rooted in broader economic concerns or specific ideologies about taxation. Given the context of a sales tax protest, it is plausible that counter-protesters would articulate a perspective that aligns with their views, possibly critiquing or defending the income tax system in relation to the sales tax issue at hand. This interpretation takes into account common sentiments surrounding tax policies, where discussions about different forms of taxation often occur simultaneously. The other choices imply a more definitive stance (true or false) or indicate a lack of sufficient data, which do not fully capture the nuanced and often ambiguous reactions of groups involved in protest movements. The wording "probably true" allows for some flexibility, reflecting the complexity of public opinion without asserting absolute certainty.

6. If young adults prioritize education and occupation in dating discussions, what is likely true about their dating preferences?

A. a. They are superficial

B. b. They seek deeper connections

C. c. They value financial security

D. d. They are indifferent to backgrounds

The focus on education and occupation in dating discussions suggests that these young adults place a significant emphasis on financial stability and career prospects when considering potential partners. By prioritizing these aspects, they are likely evaluating their partner's ability to provide a secure future, which can be an important factor in long-term relationships. This inclination reflects a practical approach to dating, where considerations of stability and lifestyle are central to their preferences. In contrast, the other options do not align with this line of reasoning. Being superficial implies a focus on surface-level traits rather than substantive attributes, seeking deeper connections points to emotional or experiential compatibility over practical concerns, and indifference to backgrounds contradicts the importance placed on education and occupation. Therefore, the emphasis on these factors inherently indicates a valuation of financial security in their dating criteria.

7. What is a potential drawback of downsizing workforces to decrease expenses?

- A. Vulnerability to economic climates and market changes**
- B. Increased employee morale**
- C. Enhanced workplace productivity**
- D. Stronger organizational control**

Downsizing workforces to decrease expenses often leads to increased vulnerability to economic climates and market changes. When an organization reduces its workforce, it can lose valuable skills and institutional knowledge that are difficult to replace. This can weaken the company's ability to respond effectively to shifts in the market or economic downturns. A smaller workforce may also mean that the remaining employees face higher workloads, which can lead to burnout and decreased efficiency over time. Thus, by downsizing, a company may inadvertently compromise its agility and adaptability, making it less resilient in the face of external challenges.

8. What is the root cause of Jenny's financial problems?

- A. Her credit card declined at the mall.**
- B. Overdraft fees from her bank are problematic.**
- C. Her check bounced when trying to buy a TV.**
- D. Jenny spends more than her earnings.**

The root cause of Jenny's financial problems is that she spends more than her earnings. This fundamental issue indicates that her lifestyle and spending habits exceed her income, leading to various financial difficulties such as debt accumulation and the inability to meet her financial obligations. This underlying behavior is essential to address because it affects her overall financial health, prompting subsequent issues like bouncing checks or incurring overdraft fees. While events like her credit card declining or a check bouncing can be symptoms of a larger problem, they stem from the fact that she does not live within her means. By understanding that her excessive spending relative to her income is the primary issue, Jenny can take proactive steps to create a budget, reduce discretionary spending, and ultimately improve her financial situation.

9. What factor is cited as a potential negative consequence of over-regulation in the financial sector?

- A. Increased competition**
- B. Lower profits**
- C. Greater innovation**
- D. Enhanced customer service**

Over-regulation in the financial sector can lead to lower profits for financial institutions. This occurs because stringent regulations may impose additional compliance costs and operational restrictions that hinder the ability of these institutions to operate efficiently. These increased costs can shrink profit margins, as companies must allocate resources to meet regulatory requirements instead of investing in growth or improving services. In turn, the inability to adapt swiftly to market changes due to regulatory constraints may limit strategies that could enhance profitability. While other factors, such as competition, innovation, and customer service, could be affected by regulation, the prominent and immediate concern often revolves around the financial viability and profitability of the institutions themselves. Lower profits can impact broader economic dynamics, such as employment and investment in the sector, which makes it a significant consideration in discussions about the implications of regulatory policies.

10. Which of the following best describes the argument about the President's promise in 2008?

- A. The promise was unrealistic**
- B. It was supported by previous economic indicators**
- C. The outcome validated the promise**
- D. It failed to account for rising unemployment**

The argument about the President's promise in 2008 is best described by stating that it failed to account for rising unemployment because this point emphasizes a critical oversight in the promises made. Economic promises or predictions often hinge on underlying assumptions about various factors, including employment rates. If those assumptions do not hold—such as if unemployment spikes beyond expectations—then the promise may not only be seen as unfulfilled but could also lead to widespread frustration and criticism. By highlighting this failure to consider rising unemployment, the argument underscores a significant disconnect between the expectations set by the promise and the economic realities that emerged. Essentially, it points to a flaw in the assessment of the economic landscape at that time, illustrating how the promise may have been overly optimistic or lacked adequate grounding in the actual conditions being faced by many citizens. Insights from this context help in understanding the disillusionment that arose regarding economic policy and leadership during that period.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://aticriticalthinking.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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